



Fact Sheet

What you need to know about the Northern Kentucky vehicle emissions testing program.

- Program background.

✓

In **September 1999**, the Commonwealth of Kentucky began a vehicle emissions testing program as part of an effort to improve regional air quality. The Northern Kentucky counties of Boone, Campbell, and Kenton suffer from poor air quality as a result of ground-level ozone, or smog. Odd numbered model years have testing deadlines in odd-numbered years, and even-models have deadlines in even years.

Ground-level ozone pollution contributes to health problems such as chronic lung and heart diseases, allergies and asthma. Young children, older adults, and people who work or play outside are at the highest risk for smog-related health problems.
- Benefits of emissions testing.

✓

Vehicles are major contributors to ground-level ozone. Although today’s new vehicles emit fewer pollutants than older vehicles, their emission levels will increase unless they are carefully maintained. As a vehicle ages, its performance also diminishes and fuel economy decreases. **Emissions testing identifies vehicles with increased emissions levels, alerting the owner to needed maintenance.** As vehicles are repaired, the air quality in the region will improve and individual vehicle performance and fuel economy will increase. The testing program reduces emissions of smog-forming pollutants from area vehicles by about two tons per day.
- Affected counties.

✓

Motorists whose vehicles are registered in **Boone, Campbell and Kenton** counties are required to complete an emissions inspection before registering their vehicles.
- Most vehicles must take the biennial test.

✓

An emissions inspection is required every other year for all 1968 and newer gasoline- and Diesel-fueled vehicles less than 18,000 pounds gross vehicle weight rating.
- Exempt vehicles.

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Vehicles that are exempt from testing include:

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Vehicles manufactured before 1968 model year

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Alternatively fueled vehicles

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Vehicles with a gross vehicle weight (GVW) of over 18,000 pounds

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Motorcycles
- Test notification.

✓

Approximately two months before a vehicle’s registration month, a notice will be mailed to the vehicle owner as a reminder of the upcoming test requirement. Bringing the reminder notice, vehicle registration or title to the test station will help speed up the test process.
- When to test.

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Vehicles can be tested up to two months before the first day of the registration month or any time during that month. Vehicles that are tested before this test period will not be able to use the test to renew the registration.

Motorists who test their vehicles after this testing period will be subject to an additional \$5 fee payable at the time of inspection.
- Hours of operation.

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Monday, Wednesday

8 AM–7 PM

Tuesday, Thursday, Friday

8 AM–5 PM

Saturday

8 AM–1 PM

Sunday and Holidays

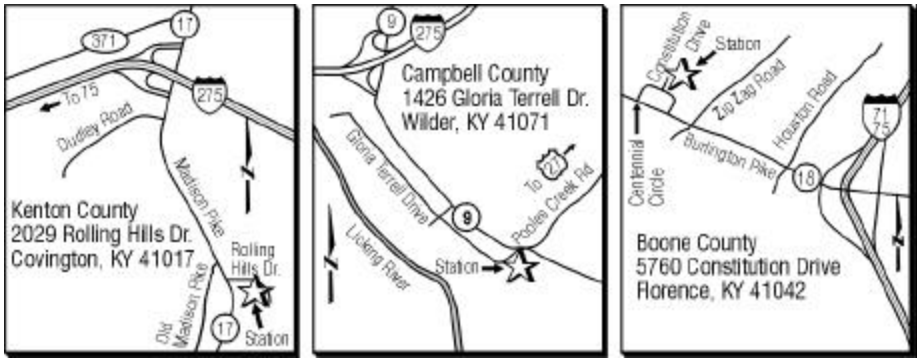
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Best times to test.

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The best days to get your vehicle tested are the middle two weeks of the month. To save time, avoid testing on Mondays, at lunchtime, or on the day after a holiday.

Station locations. ✓ One test station is located in each of the three Northern Kentucky counties. Northern Kentucky motorists may have their vehicles tested at any of these stations:



| | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Kenton County | Campbell County | Boone County |
| 2029 Rolling Hills Drive | 1426 Gloria Terrell Drive | 5760 Constitution Drive |
| Covington, KY | Wilder, KY | Florence, KY |

Test fee \$20. \$ Regardless of pass or fail, the vehicle’s first test costs \$20 and the first retest is free. All subsequent retest cost \$20 each.

All stations accept cash or checks. Credit cards and debit cards are not accepted.

Motorists stay in vehicles. ✓ **The emissions test takes 10–15 minutes** to complete and will allow motorists to remain in their vehicles for all except the optional dynamometer portion of the test.

Simple three-step test. ✓ The test is composed of three steps:

1. All 1975 and newer gasoline-fueled vehicles receive a visual inspection for required emissions control equipment (unvented gas cap, fuel inlet restrictor, and catalytic converter – if part of original equipment).
2. Next, the engine idles while emissions levels are sampled. If emissions exceed the standards, the owner is given the option of having a second test after the vehicle is driven on the dynamometer (four-wheel drive and traction control vehicles are pre-conditioned at an elevated idle instead of on the dynamometer).
3. Lastly, the evaporative system pressure test is performed on all gasoline-fueled vehicles model year 1981 or newer. The inspector lifts the hood, clamps off the charcoal canister, and attaches a pressure line to both the gas cap and fuel tank.

What are vehicles tested for? ✓ **Gasoline-fueled vehicles are tested for hydrocarbon (HC) and carbon monoxide (CO) emissions.** Acceptable levels of these pollutants are based on the vehicle model year, weight, and number of cylinders.

Diesel-fueled vehicles receive an opacity test that measures the density of particulate matter in the exhaust. These vehicles must have no more than 10 percent opacity to pass the test.

Vehicles that fail. ✓ Owners of vehicles that fail the emissions test are given a Repair Effectiveness Handbook and are expected to have the vehicle repaired and returned to a station for a retest. Vehicles may be serviced by a repair facility of the motorist’s choice.

Waivers. ✓ **A vehicle that continues to fail the test after multiple repairs and tests may be eligible for a waiver.** The owner must bring the vehicle and repair receipts to a testing station for a visual inspection. (Motorists who repair their own vehicles may bring parts receipts only.) Station personnel will check to ensure that the motorist has achieved measurable emissions improvements and spent at least the following amounts on emissions-related repairs (tampering repairs excluded):

- 1980 or older model years, \$75
- 1981 or newer model years, \$200
- Diesel vehicles, \$75

Toll-free customer hotline. ☎ For more information on testing-related questions, a toll-free customer hotline is available at **1-877-291-8787**. Callers with touch-tone phones may call 24 hours a day for recorded information. Personal assistance is available 8 AM through 5 PM, Monday through Friday.